

former colleague, the Honorable Thomas M. Foglietta of Pennsylvania, who now serves as the U.S. ambassador to Italy. On November 9, he was presented a South Korean human rights award for supporting democracy and human rights in that country.

The annual award was presented in Seoul, South Korea, by the Korean Institute for Human Rights, founded in 1983 by South Korean President Kim Dae-jung. Ambassador Foglietta established a relationship with Kim Dae-jung in the mid-1980's when he served in Congress. Kim was in exile in the United States at that time. Ambassador Foglietta accompanied him back to his beloved South Korea and the two were assaulted at the airport.

This year, the City of Philadelphia presented its prestigious Liberty Medal to President Kim. Ambassador Foglietta campaigned for almost a decade to have this award made to Kim Dae-jung.

Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD a recent article from The Philadelphia Inquirer about this award.

We offer our congratulations to our former colleague.

[From the Philadelphia Inquirer, Nov. 2, 1999]

FOGLIETTA TO GET RIGHTS AWARD IN S. KOREA—THE AMBASSADOR TO ITALY WILL BE HONORED FOR SUPPORTING DEMOCRACY IN THAT ASIAN NATION

(By Jeffrey Fleishman)

ROME—U.S. Ambassador Thomas M. Foglietta will receive a South Korean human-rights award next week for supporting democracy in a country where he was beaten 15 years ago as he traveled with a leading political dissident.

The dissident, Kim Dae Jung, is now South Korea's president. The award from the Korean Institute for Human Rights—to be presented Nov. 9 in Seoul—is a testament to a friendship that endured through a long battle against dictatorships and corrupt politicians.

"Knowing Kim has been one of the high points of my life. He has been one of my great teachers," said Foglietta, the former Philadelphia congressman who is now ambassador to Italy. "Kim has always been so determined to bring democracy to his country. This award is a great honor for me."

Kim and Foglietta met in November of 1984 when Kim was a political exile receiving medical treatment in the United States. Before leaving South Korea, Kim had been imprisoned and tortured for years and was reviled by the government of Chun Doo Wan, an army general who had seized power in 1979. During a 3½-hour meeting, Kim told Foglietta that he wanted to return to his country.

Fearful of assassination, he asked Foglietta to accompany him.

"My first thought was that the military regime would try to kill Kim upon his return," said Foglietta. "It was only months earlier that [opposition leader] Benigno Aquino was assassinated when he returned to the Philippines. I told Kim this and he said, 'They won't try anything if you go with me.' I called the television networks. I told them to be in Seoul at this time and date. I figured the Korean government wouldn't harm Kim in front of TV cameras."

On Feb. 8, 1985, Kim, Foglietta and a small American delegation, including television crews, arrived at Seoul's Kimpo Airport. Military police had blocked roads, preventing thousands of Kim's supporters from reaching the airport. Inside the terminal, 50

to 75 security police pulled Kim and his wife, Lee Hee Ho, from the entourage and corralled them toward an elevator.

Foglietta and others in the delegation, including U.S. Ambassador Robert White, were manhandled by police as Kim was carried away.

Kim endured this arrest as he had the others, and in 1997, after 40 years of protests, failed assassination attempts, six years in jail and 55 house arrests, Kim was sworn in as president in South Korea's first peaceful transition of power. Foglietta stood on the stage as Kim took his oath.

"When I stood at Kim's inauguration, I remembered that day when we were punched, kicked and bloodied," said Foglietta, who over the years has helped Kim with campaigns and democratic reforms. "I guess I always knew he'd be president of South Korea."

Last July, at Foglietta's urging, Kim was awarded Philadelphia's Liberty Medal during a ceremony at Independence Hall.

THE 66TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UKRAINIAN FAMINE

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 66th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine of 1932 to 1933, a tragedy that claimed the lives of at least seven million Ukrainians.

Too often, we have seen the horrors of famine in all parts of the world. Famine usually brought about by prolonged wars, droughts, floods or other natural occurrences. Rarely have we seen such famine brought on by the repressive actions of a government.

In 1932 to 1933, leaders of the former Soviet Union used food as a weapon against the innocent people of Ukraine. Seeking to punish Ukraine for its opposition to Soviet policies of forced collectivization of agriculture and industrialization, Joseph Stalin unleashed the horror of the Ukrainian Famine on the people of Ukraine. Estimates of the number of innocent men, women and children who died reach over 7 million, and even today the Ukrainian population has not yet fully recovered.

This year marks the 66th year since this man-made, artificial famine in Ukraine. I rise today, as a co-chair of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, to join in commemorating with the Ukrainian-American community the tragedy of 66 years ago.

The Ukrainian community's main commemorative observance will be held on Saturday, November 20, 1999 in St. Patrick's Cathedral with a solemn procession along New York's avenues and a requiem service.

We must honor the memory of all those who perished and never let such a tragedy happen again.

BURLE PETTIT TO RETIRE AFTER ILLUSTRIOUS 40 YEAR CAREER

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a man who has made his mark in

West Texas with a long and successful career at the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal. Having worked his way up from sports writer to editor-in-chief over a span of four decades, Mr. Burle Pettit has announced he will retire January 15. Burle's reputation for fairness, his passion for journalism and his love for the community, won high praise from A-J Publisher Mark Nusbaum who said, "When you think of what an editor should be, you think of Burle Pettit."

Fortunately for all of us in the Lubbock community, Burle will still be a presence around the Avalanche-Journal in several ways. He plans to serve on the editorial board, provide general consultation, and continue writing his well-loved columns. Burle's influence will also be felt in the generation of journalists who have worked under him, inspired by his strong work ethic and reliance on accuracy.

I am grateful for the years of service Burle has given to our community—not only through his hard work on the paper, but also to the organizations he has supported with his time, such as the South Plains Food Bank, the March of Dimes, the Salvation Army, and the Monterey Optimist Club.

On behalf of his many readers in West Texas, I wish Mr. Burle Pettit a relaxing and rewarding retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF INDIAN HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT REAUTHORIZATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today I am joined by 26 of our colleagues in introducing the Indian Health Care Improvement Act reauthorization legislation. The Indian Health Care Improvement Act which provides for the delivery of health services of American Indians and Alaska Natives throughout the nation will expire at the end of fiscal year 2000. Since its enactment in 1976, the act has resulted in a reduction in serious illnesses and healthier Native American births.

The unmet health needs among American Indians and Alaska Natives continues to be staggering with their health status far below that of the rest of the United States population. When compared to all races in the United States, Indian people suffer a death rate that is: 627 percent higher from alcoholism; 533 percent higher from tuberculosis; 249 percent higher from diabetes; and 71 percent higher from pneumonia and influenza.

The bill I introduce today represents, for the first time, Indian country's proposal, "Speaking With One Voice." Throughout the past year the Indian Health Service held regional meetings across the United States gathering information and consulting with health care providers, Indian tribes, tribal organizations and urban Indian organizations on how best the unique needs faced by Indian health delivery systems could be addressed. Following these meetings a national steering committee made up of tribal leaders from each of the Indian Health Service (IHS) areas plus a representative of urban Indians was established. The national steering committee drafted legislation and held numerous meetings to receive additional tribal views and incorporate them into a consensus document.

The legislation is focused on the national needs and includes very few tribal specific authorizations. Several of the programs normally administered by the Indian Health Service headquarters would be decentralized under this legislation with more funds distributed to IHS area offices to address local priorities. The bill also includes important health care training and recruitment provisions to assist with the chronic shortage of qualified health care providers. Additionally, the bill is designed to work cooperatively with contracting and compacting provisions under the Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act.

I am introducing this important legislation at the request of the national steering committee on the Reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. All the important component of Indian health care delivery are addressed in this bill including access to, and care for, diabetes, prenatal care, ambulatory care, alcohol and substance abuse, mental health, coronary care, and child sexual abuse. Certainly, there will be changes made to the bill as it proceeds through the legislative process, but this bill provides a solid basis for us to work from.

I commend the hard work and dedication of all the members of the national steering committee and those within the Indian Health Service who helped produce this legislation. For far too long Native Americans have put up with inferior health care. I will push for swift consideration of this bill and ask all my colleagues to join me in passing legislation to ensure that our first Americans are afforded only the best health care this nation can offer. We have the responsibility to accept nothing less.

TRIBUTE TO CLIFFORD STONE, JR.

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor Clifford Stone, Jr. for his hard work serving seniors throughout Jefferson and Gilpin Counties in central Colorado. After working in the private sector as a lawyer for over 40 years, Clifford retired. But instead of retiring, Clifford chose to help senior citizens navigate their way through the sometimes confusing world of law. By running the First Judicial District Bar Association Legal Assistance Program, Clifford has helped countless seniors with many legal problems.

Clifford and the Program have been a beacon of hope throughout Gilpin and Jefferson Counties. The Program has had to handle the changing needs of seniors from legal questions involving estate planning to grandparents' rights. The Program is a non-profit organization and is available to anyone who is 55 years of age or older.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I say thank you to Clifford and all of the people that make the First Judicial District Bar Association Legal Assistance Program such a positive community resource. Due to Mr. Stone's dedicated service, Colorado is a better place.

INTRODUCTION OF H. CON. RES. 209 CONDEMNING THE USE OF CHILD SOLDIERS AND CALLING FOR U.S. SUPPORT FOR AN INTER- NATIONAL AGREEMENT AGAINST THE USE OF CHILD SOLDIERS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I recently introduced House Concurrent Resolution 209, a bipartisan resolution which strongly condemns the outrageous use of child soldiers around the world and calls on our government to support an international effort to develop an optional protocol to the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child.

This resolution—which is currently cosponsored by over 40 of our distinguished colleagues—is based on the deeply disturbing testimony of numerous expert witnesses before the Congressional Human Rights Caucus. They reported the most horrific practices including the forcible conscription of children—some as young as 7 years old—for use as combatants in armed conflicts around the world. As we speak, children are being conscripted into armies of some countries and warring factions through kidnaping and coercion, while others join out of economic necessity, the intention to avenge the loss of a family member, or for their own personal safety.

Many times, these children are forced to kill in the most sadistic and gruesome fashion, their victims often other children or even their own family or friends. By forcing children to perpetrate the most horrific crimes against their own families ensures that these child soldiers cannot desert and can never return home.

Mr. Speaker, our resolution clearly exposes the full scope of the problem of child soldiers. As it notes, experts estimate that in 1999 approximately 300,000 individuals under the age of 18 are participating in armed conflict in more than 30 countries around the world, and hundreds of thousands more are at risk of being conscripted. The practice of conscripting children has resulted in the deaths of two million minors in the last decade alone. In addition to those children who have been killed, an estimated six million have been seriously injured or permanently disabled. Let there be no mistake, Mr. Speaker, this truly global problem needs a global solution which can only be brought about by determined and concerned action of the world community.

For this purpose, the United Nations established a working group in 1994 to develop an Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child to address the issue of child soldiers. The United States and Somalia, a country without a functioning government, are the only two recognized countries in the world which have not ratified this Convention. Therefore, the U.S. cannot even be a party to this Optional Protocol. The Convention on the Rights of the Child, which establishes very stringent and necessary protections with regard to educational, labor and developmental provisions, gives the world "child" the following meaning in Article 1: "For the purposes of the present Convention, a child means every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier."

It is simply beyond my comprehension that the same Convention—which otherwise protects children in a comprehensive manner—makes an age exception in Article 38(3) for the most dangerous profession in the world, that of soldier: "States Parties shall refrain from recruiting any person who has not attained the age of fifteen years into their armed forces. In recruiting among those persons who have attained the age of fifteen years but who have not attained the age of eighteen years, States Parties shall endeavor to give priority to those who are oldest."

In light of the global developments I have outlined, the U.N. Working Group seeks to raise the minimum age for recruitment and participation in armed conflict from 15 to 18 years of age, but the U.S. delegation to the Working Group so far opposes this overwhelming international consensus, preventing a unanimous draft protocol.

On October 29, 1998, this international consensus resulted in the decision by United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan to set a minimum age requirement of 18 for United Nations peacekeeping personnel made available by member nations of the United Nations. On the occasion of the unanimous adoption of Resolution 1261 (1999) on August 25, 1999 by the U.N. Security Council condemning the use of children in armed conflict, Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict, Olara Otunnu, addressed the Security Council. The Special Representative urged the adoption of a global three-pronged approach to combat the use of children in armed conflict including the raising of the age limit for recruitment and participation in armed conflict from the present age of 15 to 18 years; increased international pressure against armed groups which abuse children; and addressing political, social, and economic factors which create an environment where children become soldiers.

Mr. Speaker, the international consensus is clear, and our government should not stand in the way of this consensus. Our government should not give unintentional cover to nations with deplorable human rights records by giving them an opportunity to hide behind the current U.S. position on this issue. While the U.S. accepts 17-year-old volunteers into its armed forces with parental consent, U.S. armed forces de facto already ensure that all but a negligible fraction of recruits have reached the age of 18 before being deployed in combat situations, because 17-year-old volunteers are in the "training pipeline" and do not complete their training until they are 18 years of age.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the text of H. Con. Res. 209 be inserted at this point in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 209

Expressing condemnation of the use of children as soldiers and the belief that the United States should support and, where possible, lead efforts to establish and enforce international standards designed to end this abuse of human rights.

Whereas in 1999 approximately 300,000 individuals under the age of 18 are participating in armed conflict in more than 30 countries worldwide and hundreds of thousands more are at risk of being conscripted at any given moment;

Whereas many of these children are forcibly conscripted through kidnaping or coercion, while others join military units due to economic necessity, to avenge the loss of a